

# GET THE MEANING READING: COMPREHENSION

*Students practice reading comprehension and answering questions*

## **Zone In** **Free Write**

1. Students write as many words as possible in 1 minute.
2. Write on the board the target number of words for the group (10 times the number of students). Students don't have to worry about spelling—just quantity and speed.
3. Give the keyword HOLLYWOOD. Say GO; time 1 minute. STOP.
4. Students count their words. Add everyone's total to get the total for the group. Did the group make the goal? Ask for volunteers to read their lists.

## **Topic**

***Get the meaning from reading***

(Materials: **The Other Hollywood ♦♦♦** and **Reading Comprehension: The Other Hollywood ♦♦♦**)

## **Introduction**

What techniques can you use to get the meaning from reading, like in a textbook?

**Explain:** Use this reading process to get the meaning from reading:

1. Look at titles and illustrations for idea of what it's about (called "pre-reading").
2. Skim—pay attention to first and last sentences of paragraphs.
3. Read more carefully and summarize in your head.
4. Make notes of main points or underline if you can.
5. Skip words you don't know and try to guess the meaning from the rest of the reading (from the "context"). Go back to new words later.

## Activity

Distribute **The Other Hollywood ♦♦♦**.

**Tell students:** Read the top paragraph under the title.

**Ask:** What do you think the article will be about?

**Tell students:** Read the article and answer the questions in Activity 1, **Reading Comprehension: The Other Hollywood ♦♦♦**. Have students discuss their answers with each other.

Ask for a volunteer to answer each question. Review as a group.

Answers:

1. *There are 4,000–10,000 homeless teenagers in Hollywood, which is about one-tenth of Los Angeles' homeless population.*
2. *Over half of people under 25 run away because of abuse.*
3. *Young people often go to Hollywood because they dream they will become movie stars and lead glamorous lives.*
4. *Young homeless people in Hollywood face danger from thieves and gangs. There is also a danger that they might get involved in buying and selling drugs.*

## Wrap Up

Look at the questions in Activity 2. Check the statements you agree with. Ask for answers and discuss as a group.



CLINIC 20 HANDOUT

# THE OTHER HOLLYWOOD

Say the word "Hollywood" and we think of the movies, long limousines and famous people living in luxury on Beverly Hills. But there's another Hollywood which we don't hear about, it's the part of Hollywood where the homeless live.

Hollywood is America's unofficial homeless capital and between 4,000 and 10,000 homeless teenagers sleep on Hollywood Boulevard every night, that's about one tenth of Los Angeles' homeless population.

## **Why are they on the streets?**

Over half of the people under age 25 and living on the streets leave their family homes because of abuse. They might feel frightened, or even think they are responsible for it. Many teenagers don't know where to look for help, and the only way out of the situation may seem to be to run away from it.

## **A dream come true?**

For many teenagers Hollywood seems like an escape from their difficult home life. They arrive with the dream that they will become movie stars and lead the glamorous lifestyle that they see in the movies. However, the reality is that thieves steal their money in the first week, and many soon become involved in buying and selling drugs in order to survive. Some teenagers become gang members and either end up in prison, or dead because gang culture is very violent in America. So the dream that teenagers arrive with, and the reality they find, are very different.

## **Who is responsible?**

Movies create the image of Hollywood which we all have. Are they responsible for what happens to homeless teenagers on Hollywood Boulevard? Some campaigners for the homeless believe that they are and have organized protests at Hollywood studios. London's *Big Issue* magazine recently asked Steven Spielberg's office, Warner, and Columbia Studios to comment on the problem of homeless teenagers in Hollywood, but none of them believed that they were responsible. Every day the studios continue to make movies and teenagers keep coming to Hollywood full of hope and dreams.



CLINIC 20 HANDOUT

# READING COMPREHENSION

## THE OTHER HOLLYWOOD

### Activity 1: Comprehension

Read the article and write answers to the following questions.

1. How many homeless teenagers live in Hollywood?
2. What is the reason that many young people run away from home?
3. What attracts young people to Hollywood?
4. What are the dangers for homeless people in Hollywood?

### Activity 2: Discussion

Who do you think is responsible for creating the Hollywood homeless?

Put a check next to the sentence(s) you agree with.

- ☐ The movie industry because they make films which give young people false hope.
- ☐ The movie stars who lead glamorous lifestyles.
- ☐ The government because they could do more to help these teenagers.
- ☐ The parents of these teenagers.
- ☐ The teenagers themselves because they should stay at home and try to work out their problems.